

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131921
ORIGIN ARA-14

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-----081804Z 116977 /40
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

1. THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT AND Q'S AND A'S WERE
PREPARED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

AS WE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, THE PANAMA CANAL
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH RECESSED MAY 31, WILL RESUME
HERE AT 3:00 THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RESUMING THE NEGOTIATIONS
TODAY? WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL
THE WEEKEND. A. THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS, WHO HAD GONE
TO PANAMA FOR CONSULTATION WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT, COMPLETED
THIS CONSULTATION EARLIER THAN THEY HAD ANTICIPATED AND
INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO RESUME THE TALKS AS SOON AS COULD
BE ARRANGED.

Q. IN YOUR PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE RESUMPTION
OF THIS ROUND YOU SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELD IN PANAMA.

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WHY ARE THE MEETINGS BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON? A. BECAUSE
OF THE CHANGE OF DATE, IT WAS MORE CONVENIENT FOR AMBASSA-
DOR BUNKER AND AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ TO MEET THEM HERE.
THEY HAD MADE SOME COMMITMENTS THAT WERE DIFFICULT

TO BREAK. THE PANAMANIAN AGREED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON
BECAUSE OF THIS.

Q. DOES THIS SIGNIFY ANY MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS? A. NO. BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN CONSULTING WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND WILL HAVE SOME NEW POINTS TO DISCUSS. AS WE HAVE STATED PREVIOUSLY, GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS ROUND AND WE HOPE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRODUCTIVE.

Q. DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT A TREATY WILL BE AGREED UPON IN THIS ROUND? A. THERE IS NO WAY OF PREDICTING WHEN A TREATY WILL BE CONCLUDED. THE TALKS HAVE NO FIXED TERMINATION DATE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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